(c) While potassium iodide can effectively block uptake of radioactive iodine and take care of significant part of internal dose, research is also being pursued for development of radio protectors and decorporation agents.

(d) Stocks of potassium iodide tablet are kept in all nuclear power plants sites as part of the Department's radiological emergency preparedness plans. Some decorporation agents are also available in specific cases.

Purchase of electricity from Nuclear Power Corporation

2341. SHRIRAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that most of the State Electricity Boards are reluctant to purchase electricity from the Nuclear Power Corporation (NPC) as it is expensive in comparison to Thermal/HydeT Power;

(b) if so, the outstanding amount to be recovered by NPC from the State Electricity Boards; and

(c) the steps taken to bring nuclear Power rates at par with Thermal/ Hydel Power?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF ATOMIC ENERGY (SHRIMATIVASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) During the financial year 2001-2002, nuclear power stations generated about 19,200 Million Units of electricity at a capacity factor of about 85%. The total power was absorbed by the concerned State Electricity Boards (SEBs) as per their allocations except for a few, who for their own reasons did not agree to take their share. In such cases, the power has been diverted to other needy SEBs. In regard to generation tariff, it varies from station to station depending on the capital cost or the level at which tariffs have been negotiated. The average tariff from all nuclear power stations, for the year 2001 -02 was 239 paise/kWh which is quite comparable with the tariffs at which power is being offered by the thermal power stations.

(b) The total outstanding amount to be received by NPCIL from

different SEBs, as on 30.6.2002, is Rs. 3937 crore inclusive of Delayed Payment Charges of Rs. 1583 crore. The State-wise details are shown below:—

Total outstanding dues to be received by NPCIL from SEBs

*As on*30.6.2002 *(in crore of Rs.)*

State	Energy	DPC*	Total
MPEB (Madhya Pradesh)	742	706	1448
J&K (Jammu & Kashmir)	394	150	544
UPPCL(Uttar Pradesh)	199	343	542
HVPNL(Haryana)	265	140	405
DVB (Delhi)	159	131	290
GEB (Gujarat)	154	74	228
RRVPNL (Rajasthan)	203	2	205
APTRANSCO (Andhra Pradesh)	79	0	79
TNEB (Tamil Nadu)	75	0	75
MSEB (Maharashtra)	24	24	48
KPTCL(Kamataka)	30	0	30
OTHER STATES (dues each less than Rs.30 crore)	30	13	43
TOTAL:	2354	1583	3937

*DPC Delayed Payment Charges.

(c) NPCIL is taking appropriate steps to reduce the gestation period of the projects by standardisation of designs, adopting modem construction methods and better project management techniques. In addition, the unit sizes of the reactors are also being progressively increased to get economy of scale in operation.